

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 141559Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 537

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SUBJECT: EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF: VIENNA 6353, STOCKHOLM 2726

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1. SUMMARY: AUGUST 13 STOCKHOLM MEETING OF ETUC AFFILIATED

NATIONAL TRADE UNION OFFICIALS APPROVED RECOMMENDATION OF FEATHER-VETTER-GEIJER "CONSULTATIVE" COMMITTEE SUGGESTING GENEVA MEETING OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS JANUARY 19-20, 1974 DURING ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. NATIONAL LEADERS TO CONSULT HOME BASES AND REPORT REACTIONS TO FEATHER WITHIN TWO MONTHS. NO RPT NO WCL OR WESTERN EUROPE WFTU AFFILIATES EXPECTED TO BE INVITED. SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, GREEK UNIONS ALSO EXCLUDED. NO RPT NO ROLE FOR ICFTU SEEN IN PRESENT PLANNING. END OF SUMMARY.

2. MEETING IN STOCKHOLM AUGUST 13 OF WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS ATTENDING SWEDISH LO 75TH ANNIVERSARY DECIDED THAT NATIONAL LEADERS SHOULD CARRY BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADE UNION CENTERS JULY 29 VIENNA RECOMMENDATION OF FEATHER-VETTER-GEIJER COMMITTEE THAT "AD HOC CONSULTATIVE MEETING" BETWEEN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA JANUARY 19-20, 1974 DURING ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING. WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONAL LEADERS TO REPORT TO FEATHER WITHIN TWO MONTHS RESULTS OF SOUNDINGS. FEATHER AND VETTER TO VISIT FRANCE AND ITALY TO FURTHER EXPLAIN CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND RECOMMENDATION.

3. PARTICIPATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS EXPECTED TO BE LIMITED TO ETUC MEMBERS MINUS SPANISH EXILE UNIT BUT PLUS FINNISH SAK. NO RPT NO WCL OR WESTERN EUROPE WFTU MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INVITED, GREEK, SPANISH, AND PORTUGUESE UNIONS ALSO TO BE EXCLUDED.

4. ICFTU GENSEC KERSTENS ATTENDED STOCKHOLM MEETING AND REPORTEDLY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CARVE OUT A PEICE OF THE ACTION FOR THE CONFEDERATION, FEARING THAT LARGE SCALE MULTI-LATERAL UNION-TO-UNION MEETING WOULD BE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BYPASSING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. HE WAS REBUFFED WITH FEATHER STATING THAT ANY BLOC-TO-BLOC DISCUSSIONS OR THE APPEARANCE OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION DIRECTION OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE PREMATURE AND BEYOND THE CONCEPT OF AN EXPLORATOR "AD HOC CONSULTATIVE" MEETING BETWEEN NATIONAL TRADE UNION LEADERS. FEATHER DEFINED PURPOSE OF PROJECTED MEETING AS TO SEE WHETHER THE POSSIBILITY EXIST FOR A SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS. THEREFORE STRUCTURE AT THIS POINT SHOULD BE AS LOOSE AND INFORMAL AS POSSIBLE. DIFFICULTIES AHEAD HIGHLIGHTED BY GEIJER WHO NOTED DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS OF TRADE UNIONS IN EAST AND WEST WOULD REQUIRE "CONSULTATIVE MEETING" JUST TO DEFINE TERMS AND DETERMINE IF AGENDA COULD BE FIXED. INDICATIONS ARE THAT ONLY LIMITED DISCUSSION AS TO POSSIBLE AGENDA TOPICS TOOK PLACE AT STOCKHOLM MEETING. PRESUMABLY NATIONAL UNIONS WILL PROVIDE COMMENT AND

SUGGESTIONS IN REPLIES TO FEATHER. IN DISCUSSION WITH
LABATT FEATHER AGREED WITH NECESSITY FOR ETUC UNIONS TO
HAVE AT LEAST OUTLINE OF OBJECTIONS PRIOR TO GENEVA MEETING.

DECONTROL JULY 1, 1974
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